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10/542,225

07/14/2005

Kenji Kono

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10/20/2006

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EXAMINER

HO, HUY C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/542,225 | Applicant(s) KONO, KENJI | |
| | Examiner Huy C. Ho | Art Unit 2617 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/23/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/19/2006 and July 14/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).
The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. **2003-011539**, filed on **January 20, 2003**.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on July 14, 2005 and on June 19, 2006 has been received and placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. **Claims 1-4, 7-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ahmed (US Patent 6,782,261)**, further in view of **Hideki (JP-2001-128210)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Ahmed teaches a wireless communication terminal comprising (see the abstract):

A measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station (see abstract, column 1 lines 35-40, column 2 lines 37-41, col 3 lines 10-15, where Ahmed discloses the mobile station is capable of monitor the signal strengths of plurality of pilot signals transmitted from a plurality of base stations, thus discloses a measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station),

A determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff; and (see col 1 lines 45-67, col 2 lines 1-34, col 4 lines 45-65, where Ahmed describes by monitoring the signal strengths of pilots transmitted from base stations and also based on some certain criteria such as Add/Drop thresholds settings, the mobile phone is capable of determine an appropriate handoff, thus Ahmed discloses a determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff),

A handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section (see figure 1, see column 4 lines 45-67, column 5 lines 15-35, where Ahmed

describes the mobile station detects pilot signals, manages these pilots by assigning them into 4 mutual exclusive sets then the handoff will be performed when some certain criteria meets such as the pilot signal is greater than the pilot detection threshold T_{Add} , therefore, Ahmed discloses a handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section),

Ahmed fails to disclose a change in the criterion of a handoff determination when the handoff process is performed in predetermined repetition pattern although it is noticeable that Ahmed discloses the mobile station reassigns the pilot signals to the right classified pilot set for the handoff when the pilot signal strength is greater than a predetermined value T_{Add} (see column 5, lines 11-25, col 6 lines 20-37), and Ahmed also discloses method of recalculating of the threshold value, what Ahmed calls is a dynamic Add threshold (DAT) being determined as a function of the total detected energy of the pilots in the Active set (see col 6 lines 35-65) (change the criterion) for proper handoff instead an effective handoff is dropped and then re-added shortly after, or in case an ineffective handoff is added and then dropped shortly afterwards (see col 2 lines 5-35). In same field of endeavor, Hideki teaches a measurement means is used for receiving quality of two or more control channel signals, and a comparison means to perform selection by choosing the control channel signal which shows the maximum highest quality of the two signals (see Hideki, see par [12]-[15]), thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Hideki's teaching into Ahmed's invention in order to have the extra feature of changing the criterion of a handoff determination when the handoff process is performed in predetermined repetition pattern.

Consider **claim 2**, as applied to **claim 1**, Ahmed fails to teach the determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff when a predetermined repetition of two pilot signals is acquired, even though it is noticeable that Ahmed discloses the mobile station reassigns the pilot signals to the right classified pilot set for the handoff when the pilot signal strength is greater than a handoff threshold value T_{Add} (see column 5, lines 11-25, col 6 lines 20-37), Ahmed also discloses method of

recalculating of the threshold value, what Ahmed calls is a dynamic Add threshold (DAT) being determined as a function of the total detected energy of the pilots in the Active set (see col 6 lines 35-65), (change the criterion) for proper handoff instead an effective handoff is dropped and then re-added shortly after, or in case an ineffective handoff is added and then dropped shortly afterwards (see col 2 lines 5-35). In an analogous art, Hideki teaches a measurement means is used for receiving quality of two or more control channel signals, and a comparison means to perform selection by choosing the control channel signal which shows the maximum highest quality of the two (see Hideki, see pars [12]-[15]), thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Hideki's teaching into Ahmed's invention in order to have the extra feature of determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff when a predetermined repetition of two pilot signals is acquired.

Consider **claim 3**, as applied to **claim 2**, Ahmed, as modified by Hideki, further teaches when qualities of the two pilot signals acquired repeatedly are equal to or greater than a predetermined value, the criterion of the determination of the handoff is changed (see Ahmed, see column 5, lines 11-25, col 6 lines 20-37, where Ahmed describes if all pilots having signal strengths greater than a pilot detection threshold T_{Add} , then the mobile station dynamically reassigns the pilots to a Candidate set as being next in line of the handoff execution, therefore, discloses the criterion of the determination of the handoff is changed when qualities of the two pilot signals acquired repeatedly are equal to or greater than a predetermined value).

Consider **claim 4**, as applied to **claim 1**, Ahmed, as modified by Hideki, further discloses a detection section that detects time during which a preceding pilot signal is acquired every time handoff is performed, wherein the determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff based on the time detected by the detection section (see Ahmed, see column 6 lines 5-16, where Ahmed describes regarding to handoff procedure, when pilot signal strength decreases less than a removal

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threshold T_Drop value, then the mobile station initiates the handoff drop timer, and if this the pilot signal strength is still below the drop timer, then the mobile station sends a pilot strength measurement message to the base station, the base station in turn, sends a handoff direction message to the mobile station and mobile station reassigns pilot signal to the neighbor set, therefore, Ahmed discloses a detection section that detects time during which a preceding pilot signal is acquired every time handoff is performed, wherein the determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff based on the time detected by the detection section).

Consider **claim 7**, Ahmed, as modified by Hideki, teaches a wireless communication terminal comprising (see the abstract):

A measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station (see abstract, column 1 lines 35-40, column 2 lines 37-41, col 3 lines 10-15, where Ahmed discloses the mobile station is capable of monitor the signal strengths of plurality of pilot signals transmitted from a plurality of base stations, thus discloses a measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station),

A determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff; and (see col 1 lines 45-67, col 2 lines 1-34, col 4 lines 45-65, where Ahmed describes by monitoring the signal strengths of pilots transmitted from base stations and also based on some certain criteria such as Add/Drop thresholds settings, the mobile phone is capable of determine an appropriate handoff, thus Ahmed discloses a determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff),

A handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section (see figure 1, see column 4 lines 45-67, column 5 lines 15-35, where Ahmed describes the mobile station detects pilot signals, manages these pilots by assigning them into 4 mutual

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exclusive sets then the handoff will be performed when some certain criteria meets such as the pilot signal is greater than the pilot detection threshold T_{Add} , therefore, Ahmed discloses a handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section),

Ahmed discloses the mobile station reassigns the pilot signals to the right classified pilot set for the handoff when the pilot signal strength is greater than a predetermined value T_{Add} (see column 5, lines 11-25, col 6 lines 20-37). Ahmed fails to disclose a change in the criterion of a handoff determination when the handoff process is performed in predetermined repetition pattern. However, Hideki teaches a measurement means is used for receiving quality of two or more control channel signals, and a comparison means to perform selection by choosing the control channel signal which shows the maximum highest quality of the two, thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Hideki's teaching into Ahmed's invention in order to have the extra feature of changing the criterion of a handoff determination when the handoff process is performed in predetermined repetition pattern.

Consider **claim 8**, as applied to **claim 7**, Ahmed fails to teach the determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff when a predetermined repetition of two pilot signals is acquired, even though it is noticeable that Ahmed discloses the mobile station reassigns the pilot signals to the right classified pilot set for the handoff when the pilot signal strength is greater than a handoff threshold value T_{Add} (see column 5, lines 11-25, col 6 lines 20-37), Ahmed also discloses method of recalculating of the threshold value, what Ahmed calls is a dynamic Add threshold (DAT) being determined as a function of the total detected energy of the pilots in the Active set (see col 6 lines 35-65) (change the criterion) for proper handoff instead an effective handoff is dropped and then re-added shortly after, or in case an ineffective handoff is added and then dropped shortly afterwards (see col 2 lines 5-35). In an analogous art, Hideki teaches a measurement means is used for receiving quality of two or more control channel signals, and a comparison means to perform selection by choosing the control channel

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signal which shows the maximum highest quality of the two (see Hideki, see pars [12]-[15]), thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Hideki's teaching into Ahmed's invention in order to have the extra feature of determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff when a predetermined repetition of two pilot signals is acquired.

Consider **claim 9**, as applied to **claim 8**, Ahmed teaches when qualities of the two pilot signals acquired repeatedly are equal to or greater than a predetermined value, the criterion of the determination of the handoff is changed (see column 5, lines 11-25, col 6 lines 20-37, where Ahmed describes if all pilots having signal strengths greater than a pilot detection threshold T_{Add} , then the mobile station dynamically reassigns the pilots to a Candidate set as being next in line of the handoff execution, therefore, discloses the criterion of the determination of the handoff is changed when qualities of the two pilot signals acquired repeatedly are equal to or greater than a predetermined value).

Consider **claim 10**, as applied to **claim 7**, Ahmed discloses a detection section that detects time during which a preceding pilot signal is acquired every time handoff is performed, wherein the determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff based on the time detected by the detection section (see column 6 lines 5-16, where Ahmed describes regarding to handoff procedure, when pilot signal strength decreases less than a removal threshold T_{Drop} value, then the mobile station initiates the handoff drop timer, and if this the pilot signal strength is still below the drop timer, then the mobile station sends a pilot strength measurement message to the base station, the base station in turn, sends a handoff direction message to the mobile station and mobile station reassigns pilot signal to the neighbor set, therefore, Ahmed discloses a detection section that detects time during which a preceding pilot signal is acquired every time handoff is performed, wherein the determination section changes the criterion of the determination of the handoff based on the time detected by the detection section).

7. **Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahmed (US Patent 6,782,261), further in view of Zhao (US Patent 7,006,473).**

Consider **claim 5**, Ahmed teaches a wireless communication terminal comprising (see the abstract):

A measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station (see abstract, column 1 lines 35-40, column 2 lines 37-41, col 3 lines 10-15, where Ahmed discloses the mobile station is capable of monitor the signal strengths of plurality of pilot signals transmitted from a plurality of base stations, thus discloses a measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station),

A determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff; and (see col 1 lines 45-67, col 2 lines 1-34, col 4 lines 45-65, where Ahmed describes by monitoring the signal strengths of pilots transmitted from base stations and also based on some certain criteria such as Add/Drop thresholds settings, the mobile phone is capable of determine the appropriate handoff, thus Ahmed discloses a determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff),

A handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section (see figure 1, see column 4 lines 45-67, column 5 lines 15-35, where Ahmed describes the mobile station detects pilot signals, manages these pilots by assigning them into 4 mutual exclusive sets then the handoff will be performed when some certain criteria meets such as the pilot signal is greater than the pilot detection threshold T-Add, therefore, Ahmed discloses a handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section),

Ahmed fails to teach the determination section determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by time-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section immediately after the handoff is performed, and determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by number-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section after a lapse of a predetermined period since the handoff is performed, even though Ahmed teaches monitoring the signal strengths of pilots transmitted from base stations and also based on some certain criteria such as Add/Drop thresholds settings (see col 1 lines 45-67, col 2 lines 1-34, col 4 lines 45-65), and also teaches the mobile station detects pilot signals, manages these pilots by assigning them into 4 mutual exclusive sets then the handoff will be performed when some certain criteria meets such as the pilot signal is greater than the pilot detection threshold T-Add (see figure 1, see column 4 lines 45-67, column 5 lines 15-35)). In an analogous art, Zhao describes the handoff is performed based on an average number being averaged over period of time (see Zhao, figure 2, column 4 lines 48-67 and column 5 lines 1-30, where Zhao describes the handoff process is started based on number of measurement of pilot signal strengths over time, the handoff is finally determined by averaging out those measured values of signal strength referring to time, therefore, Zhao describes the handoff is performed based on an average number being averaged over period of time), therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Zhao's teaching into Ahmed's invention in order to have the extra feature of the determination section determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by time-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section immediately after the handoff is performed, and determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by number-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section after a lapse of a predetermined period since the handoff is performed.

Consider **claim 11**, Ahmed teaches a wireless communication terminal comprising (see the abstract):

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A measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station (see abstract, column 1 lines 35-40, column 2 lines 37-41, col 3 lines 10-15, where Ahmed discloses the mobile station is capable of monitor the signal strengths of plurality of pilot signals transmitted from a plurality of base stations, thus discloses a measurement section that measures quality of a signal transmitted from a base station),

A determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff; and (see col 1 lines 45-67, col 2 lines 1-34, col 4 lines 45-65, where Ahmed describes by monitoring the signal strengths of pilots transmitted from base stations and also based on some certain criteria such as Add/Drop thresholds settings, the mobile phone is capable of determine an appropriate handoff, thus Ahmed discloses a determination section that determines whether or not handoff is to be performed based on a measurement result of the measurement section and a criterion of the determination of the handoff),

A handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section (see figure 1, see column 4 lines 45-67, column 5 lines 15-35, where Ahmed describes the mobile station detects pilot signals, manages these pilots by assigning them into 4 mutual exclusive sets then the handoff will be performed when some certain criteria meets such as the pilot signal is greater than the pilot detection threshold T-Add, therefore, Ahmed discloses a handoff section that performs the handoff based on the determination result of the determination section),

Ahmed fails to teach the determination section determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by time-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section immediately after the handoff is performed, and determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by number-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section after a lapse of a predetermined period since the handoff is performed, even though Ahmed teaches monitoring the signal strengths of pilots transmitted from base stations and also based on some

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certain criteria such as Add/Drop thresholds settings (see col 1 lines 45-67, col 2 lines 1-34, col 4 lines 45-65), and also teaches the mobile station detects pilot signals, manages these pilots by assigning them into 4 mutual exclusive sets then the handoff will be performed when some certain criteria meets such as the pilot signal is greater than the pilot detection threshold T-Add (see figure 1, see column 4 lines 45-67, column 5 lines 15-35)). In an analogous art, Zhao describes the handoff is performed based on an average number being averaged over period of time (see Zhao, figure 2, column 4 lines 48-67 and column 5 lines 1-30, where Zhao describes the handoff process is started based on number of measurement of pilot signal strengths over time, the handoff is finally determined by averaging out those measured values of signal strength referring to time, therefore, Zhao describes the handoff is performed based on an average number being averaged over period of time), therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Zhao's teaching into Ahmed's invention in order to have the extra feature of the determination section determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by time-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section immediately after the handoff is performed, and determines whether or not the handoff is to be performed based on a value obtained by number-averaging the measurement result of the measurement section after a lapse of a predetermined period since the handoff is performed.

8. **Claims 6 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ahmed (US Patent 6,782,261)**, further in view of **Stanislaw (2000-201369)**.

Consider **claim 6**, as applied to any one of **claims 1-5**, Ahmed fails to disclose the wireless communication terminal enables to be in an idle state condition with both methods of cdma2000 1x method and 1xEVDO method, and the determination section is used as section for determining a handoff of cdma2000 1x method, even though Ahmed discloses the mobile phone and the method for handling handoff situations are using CDMA technique (see the detail description, see column 3 lines 5-67, see

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column 4 lines 1-67). In same field of endeavor, Stanislaw describes the method for handling handoff between generations (implies old version 2G and new version 3G that including CDMA2000 1x method and 1xEV-DO method) (see the title, see the abstract, and see the detail description, pars [1]-[4], [12]-[14], where describing the handoff situation being performed by using the 3G CDMA, which is a CDMA2000 1x method). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Stanislaw's teaching and incorporate it into Ahmed's invention in order to have a wireless communication terminal being able to handle handoff situation using CDMA2000 1x method.

Consider **claim 12**, as applied to any one of **claims 7-11**, Ahmed fails to disclose the wireless communication terminal enables to be in an idle state condition with both methods of cdma2000 1x method and 1xEVDO method, and the determination section is used as section for determining a handoff of cdma2000 1x method, even though Ahmed discloses the mobile phone and the method for handling handoff situations are using CDMA technique (see the detail description, see column 3 lines 5-67, see column 4 lines 1-67). In same field of endeavor, Stanislaw describes the method for handling handoff between generations (implies old version 2G and new version 3G that including CDMA2000 1x method and 1xEV-DO method) (see the title, see the abstract, and see the detail description, pars [1]-[4], [12]-[14], where describing the handoff situation being performed by using the 3G CDMA, which is a CDMA2000 1x method). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Stanislaw's teaching and incorporate it into Ahmed's invention in order to have a wireless communication terminal being able to handle handoff situation using CDMA2000 1x method.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents
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401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Huy C. Ho whose telephone number is (571) 270-1108. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Nick Corsaro can be reached on (571) 272-7876. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

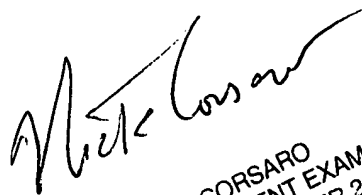
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

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Huy C. Ho

H.C.H./hch

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Corsaro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NICK CORSARO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600